



Everglades National Park

INTRODUCTION



The Everglades are subtropical [wetlands](#) on the southern tip of Florida. A shallow sheet of water flows through prairies of [saw grass](#). It is commonly referred to as a "river of grass." Early Native American inhabitants called the Everglades Pa-hay-okee (grassy water). This river starts at Lake Okeechobee and flows south to Florida and Biscayne Bays. It once covered an area of 1,619,000 hectares (4,000,000 acres). Everglades National Park currently covers 610,684 hectares (1,509,000 acres) at the southern tip of Florida.





Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey

Panoramic view of a saw-grass prairie and hammock in Everglades National Park

There is evidence that the Everglades have been inhabited by humans continuously from 10,000 B.C.E. The paleo-Indians lived with mammoths and other megafauna in an arid climate. The climate slowly changed. In postglacial time, about 5000 years ago, the area was swampy and had a subtropical climate like today's.

When Spaniards arrived in the 1500s, at least five tribes of Native Americans were living in the Everglades, totaling about 20,000. By 1763, when the English arrived, most of the natives had migrated to Cuba with the Spaniards, and only a few hundred remained. Europeans settled in the northern part of Florida and generally avoided the swampy, southern tip. During the Seminole Wars, groups of Florida Native Americans settled in the Everglades to avoid removal.

	
Courtesy of National Park Service	Courtesy of National Park Service
Early efforts at dredging canals through the Everglades	Ernest F. Coe is sometimes called "the Father of the Everglades" because of his efforts to preserve this habitat.



Early settlers considered the Everglades a worthless swamp. During the 1800s the idea of draining the swamps became popular. Drainage canals were dug with little regard to the dynamics of this slow-moving river. When they became clogged with silt, the project was abandoned. The Everglades were able to recover from the futile attempts to drain them. At the end of the 1800s there were only a few settlements in southern Florida, clustered along the coastline. The only way to reach these settlements was by boat.

As a young man, Ernest F. Coe was struck by the unusual beauty of the Everglades landscape. He was upset by the efforts to change this ecosystem and the uncontrolled killing of birds and removal of native flowers. In 1928 he established the Tropical Everglades National Park Association (later changed to Everglades National Park Association). He pushed for the establishment of a national park. As a result of his efforts, President Harry Truman dedicated the Everglades National Park in 1947. The original park covered only 186,235 hectares (460,000 acres).

	
Courtesy of National Park Service	Art Explosion
President Harry Truman dedicates Everglades National Park, December 6, 1947.	The Everglades ecosystem contains sloughs, saw-grass prairies, and wet marshes. Vast stretches of saw grass hide this slow-moving river.

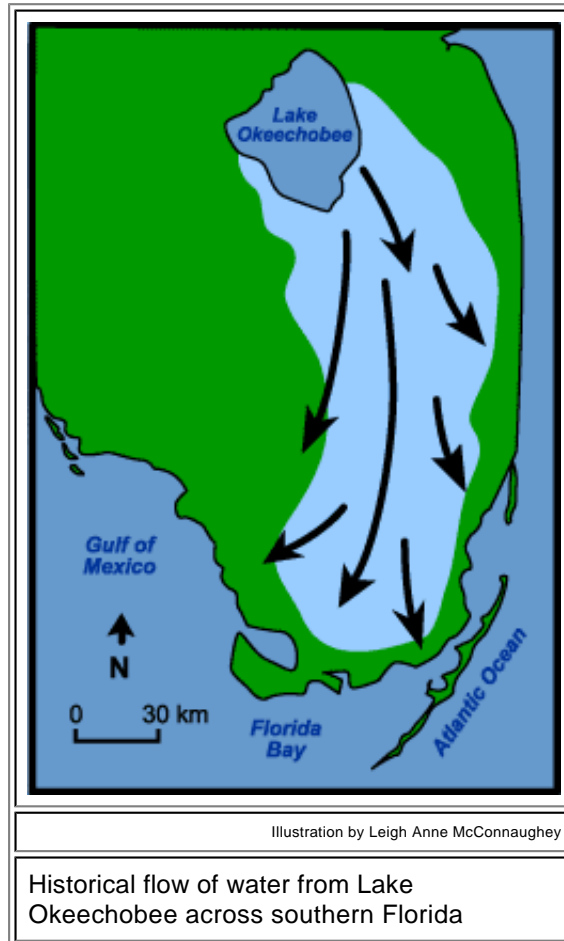
The desire to drain the swamps persisted, however, and in 1948 Congress authorized the Central and South Florida Project. Roads, canals, and levees were built throughout southern Florida, surrounding the park. The water was diverted to cities and agricultural fields. This organized effort severely changed the ecosystem. Up to 50% of the wetland was drained, and up to 90% of some native populations of plants and animals were lost.

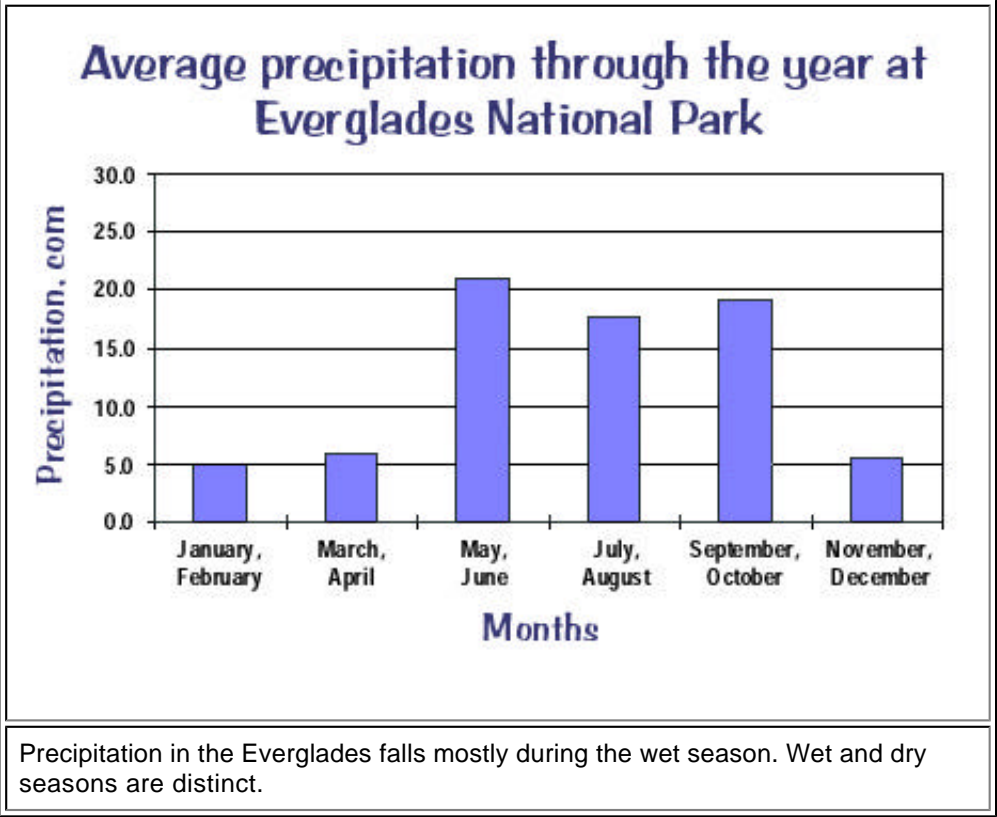
The Everglades ecosystem contains a variety of plant communities that are mixed together. The three most dominant are the [saw-grass](#) marshes, wet prairies, and areas of standing or slow-moving water in ponds and sloughs. You can find fish, [tree frogs](#), [bullfrogs](#), [water snakes](#), and [alligators](#) here. Wading birds forage in these habitats and nest on low islands that dot the landscape.

	
Courtesy of Phil Stokoe	Art Explosion
An alligator suns itself on a log.	The anhinga spreads its wings to dry in the sun.

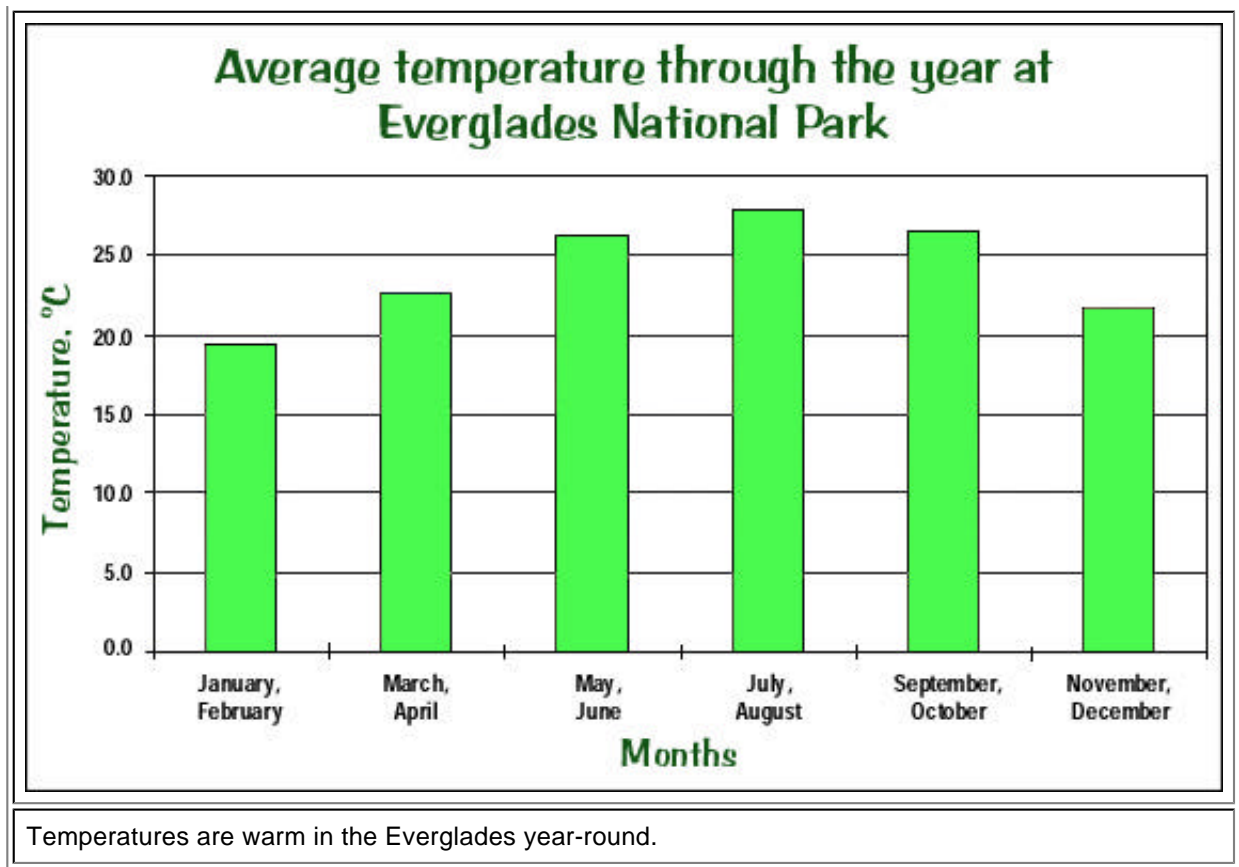
ABIOTIC DATA

The weather in the Everglades is warm year-round, with distinct wet and dry seasons. However, even the dry seasons have some rainfall. All this precipitation enters a watershed that flows through Everglades National Park. The watershed starts with the Kissimmee River, then drains into Lake Okeechobee. When Lake Okeechobee is full, water flows south into the Everglades. This usually happens in the wet season between May and October. The Everglades receive 100–165 centimeters (40–65 inches) per year of precipitation. Almost 70% of this falls as rain during the wet season, which begins with thunderstorms in May and ends in October.



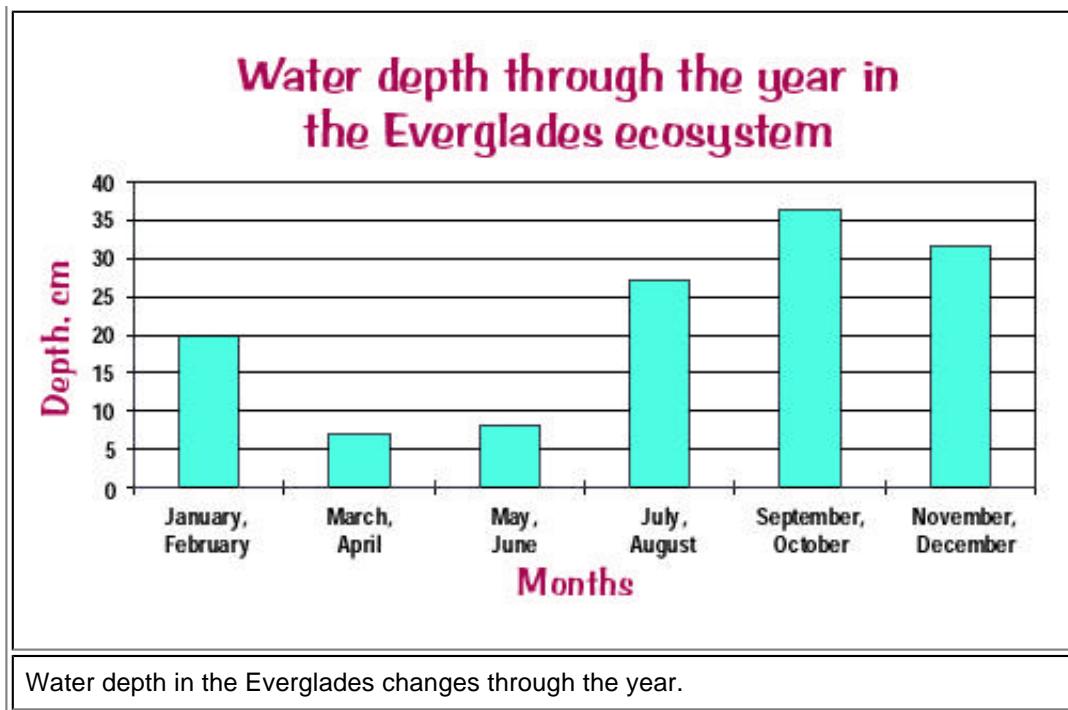


The temperature during the wet season averages about 27°C (80°F). Humidity is generally high and can be 90% or more during the wet season, which means the air is almost saturated with water vapor. Much of the moisture the Everglades receive through the year is lost to evaporation, transpiration, and runoff. During the dry season, between November and April, the water levels slowly drop. The temperature in the dry season averages about 21°C (70°F).



Southern Florida is very flat, with the highest elevation only 2.5 meters (8 feet) above sea level. Because the terrain is so flat, the overflowing water from Lake Okeechobee creates a wide, shallow, slow-moving river as it flows down the gentle slope to the south. The sheetlike flow through the Everglades is called laminar flow. At places, the river is 80 kilometers (50 miles) wide, but only 0.3–0.9 meters (1–3 feet) deep. It moves up to 30 meters (100 feet) per day during the wet season, with very little, if any, flow during the dry season.

The flat terrain is interrupted by small hammocks, or islands, in the river. The substrate of the Everglades is primarily limestone bedrock, overlaid with marl and peat. Drainage is poor in many areas.



Hurricanes are natural events in southern Florida. The intense rains and temporary flooding may actually help keep the ecosystem healthy. Since 1916, 96 tropical storms have hit southern Florida, only eight of which were hurricanes. In 1992 Hurricane Andrew roared across Everglades National Park, damaging structures and vegetation near the main Visitors Center. Most of the damage was to human-made structures. Disruptions to animals and nesting grounds had a temporary impact. Trees stripped of leaves by high winds were budding again within a few weeks.

BIOTIC DATA

The Everglades ecosystem consists of several interspersed and interdependent plant communities. Small changes in elevation, water depth, or salinity cause great differences in plant communities. The three most prominent communities in the Everglades are saw-grass prairies, freshwater ponds and sloughs, and swamps and marshes. There are also mangrove swamps, pine forests, and coastal prairie plant communities.

Most of the Everglades is covered by saw-grass prairie. [Saw grass](#), the most abundant plant in this ecosystem, is not actually a grass, but a sedge. This sedge gets its name from sharp, serrated edges that look like a saw blade. Few grazing animals eat saw grass because of the sharp edges. The water flows slowly through the saw grass. A saw-grass prairie hides the water, and from a distance it looks like solid ground. Channels, or sloughs, that form in the saw grass are a little deeper and allow the water to flow faster.

	
Courtesy of Gary Stolz, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey
A thin sheet of water flows through a saw-grass prairie.	A slough in the saw-grass prairie

Sloughs are found in the middle of the saw-grass prairie. The deeper water of a slough provides important habitat for larger fish and the birds, such as [anhinga](#), that feed on them. Along the edges of sloughs, [alligators](#) create ponds called gator holes. They deepen the holes and remove vegetation by digging in the muddy bottom with feet and snouts. This creates a mud bank around the edges.

	
Art Explosion	Art Explosion
Marshes and saw-grass prairies are important habitat for wading birds.	Gator holes provide year-round habitat for a wide range of animals.



Gator holes are important habitats for birds, fish, [snails](#), frogs, and turtles. They provide a water source for mammals in the dry season. But mammals that seek water at a gator hole may end up as dinner for the alligator. The muddy banks provide a foothold for larger shrubs and trees. Eventually the gator hole becomes a pond. Ponds quickly become covered with [duckweed](#), floating [bladderwort](#), and [water lilies](#). This is an excellent breeding ground for [mosquitoes](#) and the [mosquito fish](#) that eat them.

The small tree islands are called hammocks. They rise about 0.3 meters (1 foot) above the surrounding marshes and prairies. This slight rise in elevation keeps trees high enough above the water table to allow oxygen to reach the roots and prevents flooding. Large trees, such as live oaks, [gumbo-limbos](#), and pines, are found on hammocks.



Hammocks provide habitat for [mink](#), [snail kites](#), [raccoons](#), and the [Florida panther](#).

	
Art Explosion	Art Explosion
Hammocks rise above the saw-grass prairie or marshland. They are named for the kinds of trees they contain.	A view from inside a hardwood hammock

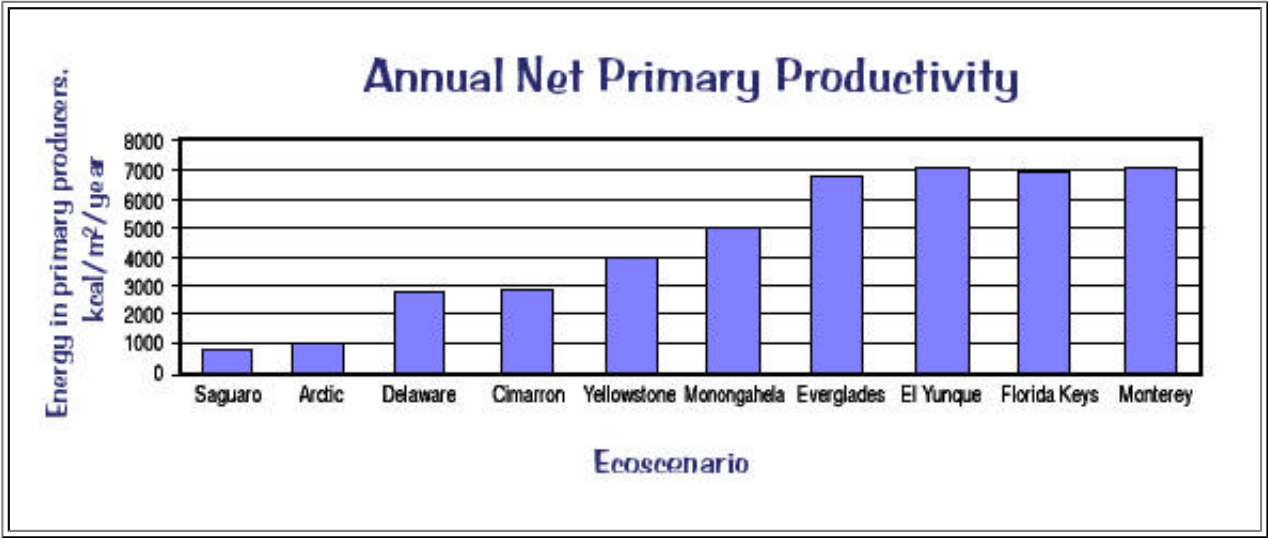
The several kinds of hammocks are classified by the kind of trees found there. Hardwood hammocks contain trees with dense wood, like West Indian mahogany, strangler fig, and [gumbo-limbo](#). Cypress heads are hammocks of [bald cypress](#) trees. Bald cypress can survive in standing water. Eventually mud, silt, and debris fills in and forms a hammock.

	
Art Explosion	Art Explosion
Bald cypress are the only conifers that can grow in standing water.	Hammocks provide habitat for raccoons and other small mammals.

The freshwater swamps and marshes make up 33% of the Everglades. Swamps and marshes become covered with algal mats called [periphyton](#). These algal mats are the primary producers in this ecosystem, and provide oxygen, soil-building material, and an area for birds and other animals to lay eggs. Plants such as [St.-John's-wort](#) and [bladderwort](#) grow here. Wading birds, such as [great blue herons](#) and [roseate spoonbills](#), feed in freshwater marshes, but return to hammocks to nest.



	
Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey	Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey
Freshwater marsh contains still ponds surrounded by trees.	Periphyton algal mat

Annual productivity, or the amount of energy provided by the producers in this ecosystem, is 6450 kilocalories/ square meter/year of plant and algal material. This productivity is very high, almost as high as the most productive ecosystem, the rain forest. There are productivity differences between the wet and dry season. Usually, producers are more active during the wet season.



ISSUES



Fresh water is vital to all living organisms. Water use and quality are the primary issues concerning Everglades National Park and the people that live in Florida. Water diversion for agricultural and urban development, especially in the last 50 years, has reduced the Everglades ecosystem to less than half its original size.

	
Courtesy of Phil Stokoe	Courtesy of George Gentry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
The spoonbill uses its flattened bill to sift through the muddy bottom in search of tiny invertebrates.	Florida panthers are one of the endangered species that live in the Everglades. Panthers need a large area to roam for food and mates. Water diversion has changed the amount of area suitable for these large cats.

History of water issues in the Everglades

Water of the Everglades used to flow uninterrupted from Lake Okeechobee to the southern tip of Florida and out into the Atlantic Ocean and the Gulf of Mexico. The river flowed continuously, with heavier flow during the wet season.



As people began to settle in Florida, the desire for land began an effort to drain the "useless swamp" to open up more land for agriculture and cities. The draining of the Everglades began in 1906. As the population of Florida grew, the demand for water for drinking and agriculture also grew.

	
Art Explosion	Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey
Water diversion structures have changed how water flows through Florida and the Everglades.	Canals drain water from wetlands and divert it to reservoirs to be used by cities or for irrigation.

In 1948, a year after the establishment of Everglades National Park, Congress created the Central and South Florida Project. The Army Corps of Engineers began building a network of roads, canals, levees, and water-control structures across southern Florida. As more dry land was created, areas were opened for agriculture and increased urban development. Crops, such as rice and sugar cane, that are suited to the hot and wet climate flourished.

Congress also set aside the northern section of the Everglades ecosystem for agriculture. This section, planted with

sugar cane and winter vegetables, was called the Everglades Agricultural Area. It covered 27% of the historical Everglades ecosystem.

	
Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey	Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey
Water must be diverted into rice fields to periodically flood them.	Sugar cane grows well in hot, well-irrigated fields of Florida.

At the time of this increase in development, a reporter for the *Miami Herald*, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, fought for the preservation of the Everglades. She was against water diversion projects even before biological changes were noted by scientists. She worked with Ernest F. Coe for the preservation of the Everglades ecosystem.

Today, there are 2240 km (1400 miles) of water diversion structures, like levees, canals, and reservoirs, throughout the Everglades. They affect the amount and quality of water that reaches the Everglades ecosystem and Everglades National Park.


Courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey
Marjory Stoneman Douglas fought for the preservation of the Everglades.

Everglades National Park is not isolated from the Everglades ecosystem. Things that happen outside of the boundaries impact the park. Water from the Kissimmee River and Lake Okeechobee historically flows through the Everglades. Anything that decreases the amount of water that flows into the Kissimmee or Lake Okeechobee decreases the amount of water flowing through the Everglades. Water diversions between Lake Okeechobee and

the park also affect the system.

There are some water-control measures in operation now to hold fresh water temporarily and then flood the Everglades. Unfortunately, water is released during both the wet and dry seasons. Some animals in the Everglades are adapted for particular patterns of wet and dry seasons. Changes in the amount, quality, and timing of water in the ecosystem affect the plants and animals that live there. Animals such as [apple snails](#) and [alligators](#) build their nests along the high-water line. When more water is allowed to flow into the Everglades, whether in the wet or dry season, these nests are flooded and the eggs destroyed. Water diverted in the dry season causes the water to be too low to support [apple snail](#) and [snail kite](#) populations. When water levels are low, salt water from the ocean can seep into the water table and damage the animals and plants that can tolerate only fresh water.

Fertilizers and other pollutants are being washed into the water from agricultural areas and cities. Runoff from agricultural areas flows into the Everglades, destroying [algal mats](#) and poisoning fish.

Water diversions have destroyed 65% of the original extent of the Florida Everglades ecosystem.

The Everglades ecosystem is home to many threatened or endangered species. The list includes West Indian manatee, [Florida panther](#), [American alligator](#), American crocodile, [snail kite](#), Schaus swallowtail butterfly, wood stork, several sea turtles, and many other animals. One plant, Garber's spurge, is also on the threatened species list. These organisms have very small populations because they no longer have access to appropriate habitat. Humans killed some of the animals for sport or because they saw them as a nuisance. Some people think that endangered species should not be protected, because they cannot survive in a world modified by humans. However, there are laws to help the populations of these organisms.

For each endangered species a specialized plan considers all the factors it will need to survive. For instance, the plan for Florida panther conservation and recovery includes corridors of wetlands that would allow the large cat to travel widely when hunting.

Restoration efforts

A program called Save Our Everglades was started by the State of Florida in 1983. The goal was to make the Everglades ecosystem look more like the Everglades of 1900 by the year 2000. An area of 23,000 square kilometers (9000 square miles) was targeted for this program. Plans included trying to make the waters cleaner by reducing pollutants and restoring habitat.

This project resulted in the expansion of Everglades National Park in 1989 to its current size of 566,700 hectares (1,400,300 acres) to help stop the decline of some of the seabirds. This boundary change directed the Army Corps of Engineers to build water structures that would restore the sheetlike flow of water in the Everglades. In 1996 Congress approved \$200 million to help restore the Everglades.

Congress accepted a \$7.8 billion plan for additional restoration efforts in 2000. Some of this restoration would include removing or modifying some of the water-diversion structures to increase the amount of water flowing into the Everglades. It would also involve building reservoirs in the Everglades to hold fresh water. Before making such changes, agreements had to be negotiated among all those who had interests in preserving the Everglades or using the water, such as environmentalists, businesses, agricultural interests, and government officials.

The plan's design did not please some environmentalists. They felt it gave too much control to the Army Corps of Engineers, who would change the water structures. Instead, the environmentalists suggested generating funds for Everglades restoration by taxing sugar cane. The sugar industry spent \$24 million encouraging Floridians to vote against this alternative plan, ultimately defeating it.

THE DEBATE

Before making decisions that affect an ecosystem, it is important to gather information from a variety of sources. Below are the views of several individuals or groups that have an interest in the future of Everglades National Park. After each quote the hyperlink goes to the original source of the quote. Refer to these sites for more information.

Use the information provided to decide where you stand on this debate.

DEBATE: Should water continue to be diverted from the Florida Everglades?

People who support current water-diversion efforts in southern Florida

Florida farmer

"Florida agriculture provides jobs and supplies food to much of the United States. We need to maintain dry land so the farms can continue."

Florida Agricultural Facts, Florida Agriculture Overview

"In 1998, Florida farmers utilized a little more than 10 million of the state's 35 million acres to produce more than 35 billion pounds of food, and more than 1.5 million tons of livestock feed. Florida farmers employed an average of 57,000 farm workers monthly in 1998, and paid them more than \$1 billion. They accounted for a \$20 billion direct impact on the state's economy; and added a direct and indirect impact of \$55 billion."

<http://www.fl-ag.com/agfacts/overview99.htm>

South Florida resident

"The water management system has worked hard to set up a plan to restore the Everglades and still allow us to use the water."

South Florida Water Management District, Mission Statement

"South Florida Water Management District's mission is to manage and protect water resources of the region by balancing and improving water quality, flood control, natural systems, and water supply. Today, the collective goal of water managers, is one of sustainable development—an integrated, long-range planning approach which can bolster the economy, promote quality communities, secure healthy ecosystems and ensure that today's progress does not come at tomorrow's expense. Land-use and water resource decisions must be made with an eye toward how future generations will live."

<http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wrp/> Click "The District's Mission."

New resident to Florida

"My family just moved to Florida. We love the climate here. I expect the city to provide us with clean drinking water. There should be enough water for everyone."

National Park Service, Population Growth, Everglades National Park

"Today, 900 people move to Florida daily; 39 million people vacation here some years; 12 million come in winter's dry season as water supplies naturally drop...Florida's daily population increase of 900 residents creates new demands to supply 200,000 more gallons of fresh water every day."

<http://www.nps.gov/ever/eco/crowds.htm>

Voter in southern Florida

"They are building a huge desalination plant up in Tampa Bay. It will turn ocean water into drinking water. But its not going to provide enough water so they will still have to use the groundwater. If they built something like that down here we would still be using groundwater and paying more on our water bill every month."

Water Technology, Industry Projects

"Tampa Bay Seawater Desalination Project is a key component of Tampa Bay Water's Master Water Plan. To meet the region's water needs, Tampa Bay Water must tap into new sources of water other than groundwater. By 2003, the plan calls for the creation of 53 million gallons a day of new water sources and a total of 111 million gallons a day by 2008. Tampa Bay Water is a newly created regional water utility. TBSDP's output is anticipated to be 25 million gallons per day, with a possibility of rising to 35 million gallons per day in the future. The seawater desalination project is one piece of the water supply solution and will provide 10% of the region's overall water supply by 2008."

<http://www.water-technology.net/projects/tampa/>

Sugar cane farmer

"We have been working hard to make sure that the water we use is clean before we return it to the water system. We want to preserve Florida's environment and still be able to grow sugar cane."

Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, Commitment to the Environment

"Cooperative members and their families have farmed the lands of the Everglades Agricultural Area for generations. It only makes sense that we would care for our most vital asset, our land. We have led the way in technological breakthroughs that make farming more environmentally friendly. Through the incorporation of Best Management Practices (BMPs), farmers have reduced the use of chemicals, fertilizers and pesticides. The result is cleaner water

and healthier soil."

http://www.scgc.org/commitment_to_the_environment.htm

People who support stopping water diversion in southern Florida

Shirley Beccue, National Park Service

"Today it is not enough to merely appreciate nature, we have to actively work to protect it. What we do today toward that goal is the legacy we leave our children and their children. The extinction of a species is forever...and the decision is ours."

<http://www.nps.gov/ever/eco/danger.htm>

Visitor to Everglades National Park

"I remember seeing a lot more birds and wildlife when my family vacationed here in the 1950s. But not as many people lived here then. Cities use up a lot of the water that used to come here."

Nicole T. Carter, CRS Report to Congress, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

"The Everglades are also affected by degraded water quality. Pollutants from urban areas and agricultural runoff, including excess nutrients (such as phosphorus and nitrogen), metals, and pesticides, have negatively affected plant and animal populations. Nutrients entering the Everglades have caused a decline in native vegetation and an overabundance of invasive exotic species. Changes in the quantity, quality, and timing of freshwater flows have also disrupted the equilibrium of coastal estuaries and reef systems. Pressure on the South Florida ecosystem is anticipated to worsen if South Florida's current population doubles as forecasted to 12 million inhabitants in 2050."

<http://www.cnle.org/nle/crsreports/biodiversity/biodv-38.cfm>

Environmentalist in southern Florida

"The government has a plan for restoring the Everglades ecosystem, but it does not go far enough. There is still too much water being diverted. It takes care of the cities first and the Everglades gets the water that is leftover."

Nicole T. Carter, CRS Report to Congress, South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan

"Some environmental groups question the extent to which CERP contributes to Everglades restoration and whether so complicated and costly a plan is necessary. There is also concern that the Plan does not include enough measures to improve water quality in the Everglades. Some groups and federal agencies have expressed concern that CERP does not explicitly give natural systems precedence in water allocation, and that it is focused first on water supply rather than ecological restoration."

<http://www.cnle.org/nle/crsreports/biodiversity/biodv-38.cfm>

Southwest Florida, Water Management District, Seawater Desalination Right Now for the Right Reasons

"Seawater desalination also has consistently been among the most popular alternative water sources in area public opinion surveys. In a 1997 District survey, nearly 50 percent of the respondents chose seawater desalination as their preferred alternative water source, higher than all other alternatives. In fact, 87 percent rated seawater desalination as either a good or very good alternative water source for their homes. A considerable majority of the respondents, 72 percent, said they were willing to pay \$3 or more per month on their water bills to ensure a safe and sustainable water supply and to protect wetland and lake environments."

<http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/isspapers/desal.html>

South Florida Wading Bird Report, Dale E. Gawlik, editor, October 2001

"System-wide patterns this year added to the mountain of evidence that wading birds are extremely sensitive to changing hydrologic conditions. Nest success differences in Roseate Spoonbills in Florida Bay and switches in nesting effort and foraging locations among regions of the Everglades are reminders that wading bird monitoring is a powerful tool for assessing the state of the ecosystem, and therefore the success of restoration efforts...Unfortunately, 2001 was noteworthy in that there was some nest failure, particularly in Everglades National Park."

http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wrp/wrp_evg/projects/wading01/summary.html

Questions

- Which side of this debate do you support?

- **What scientific evidence supports your position?**
 - **After looking at the evidence, did you change your position? Please explain why.**
-

WEB LINKS

National Park Service, Everglades National Park Official Website - <http://www.nps.gov/ever/welcome2.htm>

American Park Network, Everglades National Park - <http://www.americanparknetwork.com/parkinfo/ev/index.html>

Duke University Wetlands Center - <http://taxodium.env.duke.edu/wetland/>

Everglades National Park, U.S. National Parks.net, not associated with government national parks websites - <http://www.everglades.national-park.com/>

Everglades Restoration, *Rescuing an Endangered Ecosystem: the Journey to Restore America's Everglades* - <http://www.evergladesplan.org/>

Florida Agricultural Facts, *Florida Agriculture Overview* - <http://www.fl-ag.com/agfacts/overview99.htm>

Florida Coastal Everglades Long-Term Ecological Reserch - <http://fcelter.fiu.edu/>

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Everglades Technical Support links - <http://www.dep.state.fl.us/water/everglades/links.htm>

Florida Water Services, Water Conservation Links - <http://www.florida-water.com/conservelinks.htm>

Friends of the Everglades, founded by Marjory Stoneman Douglas - <http://www.everglades.org/>

Governor's Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, archived reports - <http://fcn.state.fl.us/everglades/gcssf/gcssf-reports.html>

Governor's Commission for the Everglades - <http://www.everglades.state.fl.us/>

National Park Service, *Endangered Species* - <http://www.nps.gov/ever/eco/danger.htm>

National Park Service, *The Everglades Ecosystem* - <http://www.nps.gov/ever/eco/index.htm>

National Park Service, *History of Everglades National Park* - <http://www.nps.gov/ever/eco/history.htm>

National Park Service, *Population Growth, Everglades National Park* - <http://www.nps.gov/ever/eco/crowds.htm>

Nicole T. Carter, CRS Report to Congress, *South Florida Ecosystem Restoration and the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan* - <http://www.cnire.org/nle/crsreports/biodiversity/biodv-38.cfm>

South Florida Wading Bird Report, Dale E. Gawlik, editor, October 2001 - http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wrp/wrp_evgs/projects/wading01/index.html

South Florida Water Management District, Everglades - http://www.sfwmd.gov/koe_section/2_everglades.html

South Florida Water Management District, *Mission Statement* - <http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wrp/> Click "The District's Mission."

South Florida Water Management District, *South Florida Watershed Ecosystems* - <http://www.sfwmd.gov/org/wrp/>

Southwest Florida, Water Management District, *Seawater Desalination Right Now for the Right Reasons* - <http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/about/isspapers/desal.html>

Sugar Cane Growers Cooperative of Florida, *Commitment to the Environment* - http://www.scgc.org/commitment_to_the_environment.htm

Threatened and Endangered Species of South Florida's National Parks, Everglades Digital Library - <http://everglades.fiu.edu/education/threatenedbr.html>

U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources of Florida, *Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan* - <http://fl.water.usgs.gov/CERP/cerp.htm>

Water Technology, Industry Projects - <http://www.water-technology.net/projects/tampa/>

World Heritage Committee, Everglades National Park - <http://whc.unesco.org/sites/76.htm>
